

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 043887

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: BDIS, UY

SUBJECT: CROSSTIES CASE

1. DEPARTMENT ARRANGED FOR MR. WILLIAM F. MURPHY, JR., VICE PRESIDENT, THE GALLIE CORPORATION, TO MEET WITH DR. GUALBERTO TALAMAS, DCM, URUGUAYAN EMBASSY, ON FEBRUARY 19. PURPOSE OF MEETING WAS TO PRESENT MR. MURPHY AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLAIN GALLIE CORPORATION CASE TO EMBASSY OFFICIAL SO THAT A MUTUALLY AGREED UPON APPROACH TO RESOLVING THE LONG-STANDING DISPUTE COULD BE SOUGHT. DESK OFFICER AND DEPARTMENT LAWYER ACCOMPANIED MURPHY BUT DID NOT PARTICIPATE EXTENSIVELY IN DISCUSSION. THEIR ATTENDANCE REFLECTED A DESIRE OF USG TO FACILITATE RENEWED CONTACT BETWEEN MR. MURPHY AND GOU; AND TO INDICATE TO GOU USG INTEREST RATHER THAN EFFORT TO INDICATE POSITION ON MERITS (THERE IS ALSO SIGNIFICANT CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST IN THIS ISSUE.)

2. NEITHER MURPHY NOR TALAMAS SAID ANYTHING WHICH HAS NOT PREVIOUSLY BEEN DISCUSSED AT ONE TIME OR ANOTHER DURING THE COURSE OF THIS 23-YEAR-OLD CASE. MURPHY EMPHASIZED HIS DESIRE TO FIND A VEHICLE FOR ARRIVING AT A SETTLEMENT. TALAMAS, EXPRESSING PUZZLEMENT AS TO WHY GALLIE HAD NOT

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TAKEN THEIR CASE TO THE URUGUAYAN COURTS YEARS AGO,

OFFERED TO SEND THROUGH HIS DIPLOMATIC POUCH ANY MEMORANDUM

OR POSITION PAPERS FROM MR. MURPHY TO THE FOREIGN
MINISTRY, ADMINISTRACION DE FERROCARRILES DEL ESTADO OR
WHOMEVER MR. MURPHY DESIGNATED TO BE THE RECIPIENT.
TALAMAS ALSO SUGGESTED MR. MURPHY OBTAIN LEGAL COUNSEL IN
URUGUAY.

3. MR. MURPHY, AFTER THE MEETING, MAINTAINED THE DISCUS-
SION HAD BEEN FRUITLESS AND EXPRESSED HIS INTENTION TO
PURSUE HIS CLAIMS THROUGH HIS FRIENDS IN THE U.S.
CONGRESS. HE PROMISED THAT HE WOULD PROVIDE DOCUMENTS
SHOWING THAT HIS FAILURE TO PURSUE LEGAL REMEDIES IN
URUGUAY HAD BEEN BASED ON DEPARTMENT'S ADVICE.

4. WE HAVE NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THE GOU WILL LOOK
ON THIS MATTER WITH ANY MORE SYMPATHY THAN IN THE PAST,
GIVEN THE LEGAL HISTORY. ANY IDEAS ON EMBASSY'S PART
WOULD BE WELCOME. EMBASSY IS ALSO REQUESTED TO KEEP
DEPARTMENT INFORMED OF ANY DEVELOPMENTS WHICH MAY ARISE
FROM MURPHY/TALAMAS MEETING. WE WILL REPORT TO YOU AS
THE MATTER DEVELOPS ON THIS END. INGERSOLL

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